

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among five species. The Examiner stated that the five species are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the five species for further prosecution in this application and to list all claims readable on the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the species of invention designated as Species II and list claims 1-3 as being readable on the elected species. As noted by the Examiner, claims 1-2 are generic to all species. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

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Signature

December 26, 2002

Date

Respectfully submitted,

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